

REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3-11, 15-18, 20, 23 and 26-28 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,576,843 (Ashworth) in view of US 5,358,929 (Fujikama et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to clarify structural aspects, namely recitation of a superconducting article that includes a layer of superconductor material overlying the substrate, said layer comprising a plurality of superconductor strips and at least one superconductive bridge coplanar with each other. The foregoing language is supported by the originally filed application and drawings, notably FIGS. 4-7. As illustrated in the figures, the superconductive strips are spaced apart from each other by a gap "g" (see FIG. 4) and the superconductive bridge(s) are positioned within the same plane as the superconductor strips (see FIG. 7).

The PTO has apparently relied upon Ashworth to illustrate a superconductive article having a substrate and a plurality of superconductor strips. The PTO admits that Ashworth does not disclose a superconductive bridge and thus apparently relies upon Fujikama et al., particularly FIG. 13, to illustrate a bridge.

Fujikama et al. disclose a discrete strip of superconducting material 41 overlying two adjacent superconducting wires 50, 50' that include superconductor strips in a silver matrix. (FIG. 13 and Col. 4, lines 16-20). The overlying discrete strip of superconducting material 41 and the underlying superconductor strips of the two adjacent superconducting wires 50, 50' are not coplanar. Accordingly, Fujikama et al. do not teach or remotely suggest a layer of superconducting material having a plurality of superconductor strips and at least one superconductive bridge coplanar with each other.

Ashworth and Fujikama et al. clearly fail to disclose all features of the invention as presently claimed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

2. Claims 12-14, 19, 24, 25, and 29-32 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,576,843 (Ashworth) in view of US 5,358,929 (Fujikama et al.) and

further in view of US 6,133,814 (Okada et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Okada et al. fails to even remotely overcome the deficiencies of Ashworth and Fujikama et al. as mentioned above. Okada et al. nowhere teach nor suggest use of laterally extending superconductive bridgees, but rather, teaches joints used to connect conductors end-to-end. Modification of the Ashworth/Fujikama structure would, at best, simply result in the use of the Okada joint structure. Clearly, Okada does not disclose or suggest modification of the superconductive bridges of Fujikama to be *coplanar* with the superconductor strips, and do not even remotely enable such a structure.

In light of the foregoing remarks, the combination of Ashworth, Fujikama et al. and Okada et al. clearly fail to disclose all the features of the invention as presently claimed, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicants does not believe that any additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,

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